

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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CHP ACKNOWLEDGES TRANSIT AND MOTORCOACH COMPETITION

WINNERS

California transit and motorcoach employees placed at the top in their industries national driving and maintenance competitions. Sponsored by the American Public Transit Association and the American bus Association, these competitions focus on the importance of safety and professionalism within the transit and motorcoach industry.

“We would like to extend our congratulations to these award winners for their outstanding skills and the obvious benefits they bring to traffic safety and the transit bus and motorcoach industries here in California,” said California Highway Patrol (CHP) Commissioner Dwight Helmick. “This also demonstrates the enormous pride and obvious responsibility reflected by the employers of these winners and brings added safety to everyone who utilizes transit buses and motorcoaches in California.”

In September of 1996, Sacramento’s own Regional Transit mechanics Mark McKee, Mark O’Brien and Howard Zickefoose won the top award in the International Bus Maintenance Rodeo hosted by the American Public Transit Association in Tacoma, Washington. As first time competitors, these mechanics won against 43 other teams of mechanics from throughout the United States and Canada. Regional Transit’s winning team was coached by Maintenance Supervisor John Darragh and Maintenance Trainer Vern Barnhart.

M O R E

In June of 1997, Bob Audette, Sacramento maintenance supervisor for All West Coachlines, not only won first place at the American Bus Association's Golden Wrench Championships in Nashville, Tennessee, he also scored the highest points ever received by a competitor. To qualify for this competition, Bob was required to have previously placed either first or second in one of the 11 regional competitions held throughout the United States and Canada.

"Constantly striving to be the best is what Californians expect from our service-oriented occupations and these individuals have certainly proved that point," said Commissioner Helmick. "The motorcoach and transit bus industry in California is an integral part of our transportation system and the CHP would like to recognize these individuals for making California the best in the nation," he added.

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